

PASSED SECOND READING.

Essex Cross Railway Company's Application for a Franchise Advanced by the Council—No Objections Raised Against It.

The Town Council on Monday night passed to second reading the franchise ordinance of the Essex Cross Railway Company. Councilman Moore, Chairman of the Council Committee, introduced the ordinance, and it passed without a dissenting vote or comment on the part of any member of the Council or objection on the part of any citizen present at the Council meeting.

The chief objection was against granting the franchise when it was first applied for, from the official board of the Watessing M. E. Church, and that body's objection was confined to the proposed route of the railway, which followed Lawrence and Dodd Streets, in which two streets the church fronts.

The ordinance was introduced in an amended form Monday night, the route being changed to obviate the objection raised by the church people. The route is now laid out through this town from the junction of Conger Street and Glenwood Avenue, thence along Conger Street where the police station is, Conger Street is now located and the route from there through the town will lie across the old Watessing Lake property east of the Lackawanna Railroad embankment to Crown Street, and up that short thoroughfare to Orange Street, through the latter to the private property near the H. B. Wiggins factory. After crossing the latter, the road will extend into East Orange by way of Lawrence Street.

The franchise ordinance provides for a five-cent fare between here and Elizabeth, and transfers on all other lines that will enter into a transfer agreement with the Essex Cross Railway Company. Monday evening, July 21, was fixed as the date for final reading of the ordinance, but it is not certain that it will be brought up at that date. The indications are that the ordinance will be adopted by unanimous vote of the Council.

The Essex Cross Railway Company has a revised application for a franchise now, before the East Orange City Council. The revision was made to meet some of the objections of property owners along the proposed route of the projected railway. The company also has franchise applications pending before the governing bodies of Yonkers, Irvington, and Elizabeth.

Town Council

At the regular meeting of the Town Council Monday night, the following business was transacted: The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Councilman Moore reported a complaint about the overloading of the Park sidewalk at the junction of Broad and Liberty Streets on the occasion of heavy rains. The matter was referred to the Public Grounds Committee. Mr. Walker, Chairman of that committee, asked where the lands were to come from to defray the cost of the work.

Chairman Moore said that the Park walks, like cross walks, were a public charge, and the money would have to come from the public funds.

Mr. Walker brought to the attention of the Council the condition of the sidewalk along Broad Street under the Erie Railroad bridge. The damage to the sidewalk resulted from the construction of a sewer by the town, and in the opinion of the Town Attorney the repair work was chargeable to the town.

Councilman Moore brought up the matter of the annoyance and inconvenience suffered by many citizens from the low overhanging branches of many trees along the public streets, and he thought that it was a proper duty of the Council to have the trees trimmed. The matter was referred to the Public Grounds Committee.

The monthly report of Chief of Police Collins was read. Ten arrests were made during the month of June, and twenty dollars in fines collected.

Bills amounting to upwards of \$1,000 were read off by the Clerk and ordered paid by the Council. A statement of expenditures by the Board of Health was read by the Clerk and ordered filed.

New Route for Trolley

The Essex Cross Railway Company has selected a new route through this town which will obviate the serious objection of the Watessing M. E. Church to the granting of the company's application for a franchise. Instead of reaching Watessing Centre from East Orange by way of Lawrence and Dodd Streets, which was the route objected to by the church, the new route turns directly east after crossing the Erie Railroad track and goes through private property to the right of way from the Wiggins factory to Watessing Centre. The company has also new applications pending before the Irvington Council, and the East Orange Council.

THE DOG TAX

DISCUSSED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY NIGHT.

Mr. Walker Recommends Abolishing the Registry Fee—His Report Not Adopted—The Dog Catcher Wants to Get to Work.

Shall dog-owners be compelled to pay both a tax and a registry fee for the privilege of keeping their pet canines? Shall owners of dogs pay only the assessment levied by the Board of Tax Assessors and the registry system and fee be abolished? Shall the assessment of dogs levied by the Board of Assessors be eliminated, and only a registry fee imposed? Shall Dog-Catcher Martin be authorized to start work, or shall his services be dispensed with for this season?

These and numerous other questions relating to dogs were the substance of a prolonged discussion at the Town Council meeting Monday night, and ended with imposing upon Councilman Walker of the Second Ward the stupendous task of making an investigation of the dog tax, state and local, and of deciding whether or not the dog-catcher shall pursue his vocation this summer.

Mr. Walker vigorously protested against the action of his colleagues in thrusting upon him a class of work that was foreign to the House Committee, of which he is Chairman. In Mr. Walker's opinion the dog question, involving as it did several points of legal procedure, very properly belonged to the Legal Committee. Mr. Walker's logical attitude on the dog question failed to convince his colleagues, and they insisted and voted that the matter should be placed in his hands with power. This power, of course, will not deprive Mr. Walker from the privilege of making several successive "progress" reports.

The Council's first debate over dogs occurred early in the session and was brought about by Mr. Walker reporting a recommendation to abolish the registry fee for dogs, and to let the regular tax assessment stand as the only fee imposed upon dog owners for keeping dogs. The question then turned on what effect such action would have on the town ordinance now in force, and which requires a registry fee, and for the enforcement of which officers had been appointed. The longer the Council discussed the subject the more involved and complicated it became, and finally there was a ready response to a motion on the part of Mr. Walker to lay the matter on the table.

The second round over the dog question occurred near the close of the session, when Chairman Peterson stated that he had been asked by the official dog-catcher and others when the work of catching unlicensed dogs would begin. Mr. Peterson said it was a question for the Council to decide. Mr. Moore moved to refer the decision of the question to the House Committee. His motion was readily seconded.

Before the dog-catcher can begin work there is considerable detail to attend to. Provision must be made for a dog pound, and that is the most troublesome feature of the dog ordinance. It is now in Mr. Walker's power to see to it that the residents of the Second Ward will not be troubled by the location of the noisy, barking dog-pound in that ward. The residents of the First District of the Third Ward rose in rebellion against the location of the dog-pound in that district last summer, and a seriously meant threat of legal proceedings against the Council was a result of the dissatisfaction.

Members of the Council found much amusement in placing the public welfare of the canines under Mr. Walker's care, but Mr. Walker may in turn find a little "fun" in looking around in the First and Third Wards for a location for the dog pound.

Glad, yet Sorry

Councilman Unangst, who resides in the commuters' district, says in reply to those who have commented upon the singular freedom of that district from saloons, that "while the residents of the district may have much rejoice over the absence of saloons, they have equally as much cause for regret that there is not a single church in the district." In Mr. Unangst's opinion a laxness in the religious vigor of the town is shown by the fact that such a large, populous and influential district should be without a house of worship of any kind.

THE WATER CONTRACT

EXTENDED BY THE WATER COMPANY UNTIL OCTOBER 1.

At Which Time It is Expected that the East Orange Case will be Settled—Speculation as to the Future of the Water Supply Problem—Looks as if the Town Must Own Mains.

The water contract between this town and the Orange Water Company, which expired this month, has been extended to October 1 by mutual agreement between the Water Committee of the Town Council and the officials of the water company.

Councilman Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee, reported this arrangement at the meeting of the Council Monday night and it was concurred in by the Council.

The reason for the extension of the existing contract was said to be due to the indefinite state of the negotiation now going on between the city of East Orange and the water company, whereby the city must purchase the East Orange portion of the company's plant and business.

The action of the city of East Orange has greatly complicated the question of a future water supply for this town. If East Orange purchases that portion of the water company's plant within the East Orange city limits, Bloomfield and Glen Ridge will then constitute the field of operation of the Orange Water Company, and it is not likely that the company will care to continue business within that limited scope. Under the circumstances it is very probable that the existing arrangement will continue at least two years, as the Orange Water Company's contract with the East Jersey Water Company for the daily delivery of a certain amount of water for supplying this town and Glen Ridge does not expire for two years yet. If the sale to East Orange is consummated, the possibility is that the Bloomfield portion of the company's plant will be put on the market for sale.

It has been suggested that in the event of the Orange Water Company going out of business, or not desiring to make a new contract, Bloomfield ought to try and make an arrangement with the city of Newark for a water supply. This cannot be done, as a clause in the contract between the East Jersey Water Company and the city of Newark excludes Bloomfield from the places to which the city can sell water.

"If there was no prohibitory clause against ownership of the pipes and mains, either the city of Newark or the town of Bloomfield could have to purchase the Orange Water Company's plant and business. The same question would arise in case of negotiations with the Municipal East Jersey Water Company. The indications are that the municipalities when the town of Bloomfield is going to remain an independent municipality, must own its own system of water mains and maintain a water department and procure its water supply by purchase of water at a certain cost per million gallons.

Property Owners Pleased

The residents and business men of Watessing Centre, as they daily witness the progress of the improvement now under way there, and the success of the Board Committee of the Town Council, are highly pleased with the prospect and the piece of work is progressing so satisfactory and practical that has ever been carried on there. The Board Committee, it is understood, expects to give a fine finish to Watessing Centre.

TOWN COUNCIL

AUTOMOBILE ORDINANCE INTRODUCED TO FIRST READING.

Limits Speed to Eight Miles an Hour—Essex Cross Railway Franchise Ordinance Laid Over—Reduction in Bonded Indebtedness for Sewers.

At the Town Council meeting on Monday night Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne was authorized to pay off two of the \$1,000 sewer loan bonds held by the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, and a warrant for \$640 was ordered drawn to pay the interest on the outstanding bonds of that issue.

Councilman Harrison introduced to first reading an ordinance limiting the speed of automobiles on the streets of this town to a maximum of eight miles per hour. Mr. Harrison said that owners of this class of vehicles were making a racing track of Upper Broad Street, and sometimes speeding their machines there at a forty miles per hour pace. The ordinance applies also to drivers of horses, and they are not permitted to drive faster than eight miles per hour.

Councilman Walker succeeded in transferring to the supervision of the dog registry and licensing from the House Committee, of which he is Chairman, to the Police Committee, of which Councilman Unangst is Chairman. Mr. Walker produced an ordinance which provided that the work belonged to the Police Committee.

Mr. Unangst cited the precedent of last year, when Chairman Ward referred the same to the House Committee.

Councilman Peterson and others of the Council are of the opinion that the matter properly belonged to the Police Committee.

Attorney Halfpenny read a statute enacted last winter under which the dog question could be transferred by the Council to the Board of Health. The Council voted to place the matter in charge of the Police Committee, and on motion of Councilman Conlan the Clerk was authorized to purchase license tags for dogs and to issue public notice that dogs must be registered.

Councilman Walker of the Public Grounds Committee said that certain citizens had suggested to him the need of a flagstone walk across the park from a point opposite Monroe Place in a diagonal direction to Liberty and Broad Streets. The people who had suggested the stone walk preferred an asphalt one and would willingly contribute towards the difference in cost. Mr. Walker said. The matter was referred to the Public Grounds Committee.

A discussion ensued as to the availability of funds for sidewalk work, and the Sidewalk Committee was informed that the cost of any work undertaken by it would have to come out of the incidental account. The Broad Street sidewalk that was damaged by the construction of the Bloomfield Avenue storm sewer and the crosswalk across Broad Street at James Street were matters referred to the Sidewalk Committee with power.

Mr. Moore of the Legal Committee made a progress report on the Essex Cross Railway franchise ordinance.

Town Attorney Halfpenny submitted a requisition from the Board of Health for \$2,000. The general purposes for which the Board wanted the funds were set forth in the request. Mr. Moore asked the Clerk if the Board had itemized bills from its creditors. The Clerk said that bills ordered paid by the Board were in the same shape and underwent the same form as those passed by the Town Council. On the motion of Mr. Conlan the appropriation asked was voted.

Town Treasurer Osborne asked to be authorized to place to the account of the Board of Health the \$2,500 appropriation allowed the Board in the appropriation ordinance. Mr. Moore asked if the request was in accord with the regular practice and was informed that it was.

Bills amounting to \$2,225 were ordered paid by the Council.

IMPROVEMENT PLANNED

FOR DRAINAGE OF THE SURFACE WATER FROM THE CENTRE.

The Road Committee will Co-operate with the Board of Freeholders—Large Pipes and Catch Basins to Carry Off the Water—The Town Gets a Good Thing at Small Cost.

In times of spring and summer freshets and in winter thaws the street crossings at the business centre of this town are always covered with water from one to several inches in depth. This frequently annoying condition of the streets and walks at the Centre has been a source of much complaint, and the public officials have been frequently criticised for failing to apply a remedy. Improvements have been made from time to time that have tended to lessen the nuisance in a considerable measure.

The proper remedy has been apparent for many years, but the cost of applying it has been an obstacle. It appears now that a mutual arrangement has been made by the Road Committee of the Council with the Board of Freeholders whereby the matter of surface drainage at the Centre is to be taken in the right kind of a way and at comparatively small cost to the town. Bloomfield Avenue is a county road, and as it is the street that suffers most from the damage by floods, the county officials will take some action towards the protection of the roadway of that street.

Mr. McGowan, who has secured good bridges and other good things from the county for Bloomfield, has interested himself in the matter personally and got into such shape as to secure a very reasonable proposition from the Board of Freeholders to the Town Council.

Councilman Conlan, Chairman of the Road Committee, unfolded the plan of the Board of Freeholders at the Town Council meeting Monday night and secured the co-operation of the Council in the matter.

The Board of Freeholders, according to Mr. Conlan's statement, intend to run two twenty-four-inch pipes, one on each side of the avenue from a point opposite the National Bank building to Conger Street. Catch basins will be constructed at the street corners. The entire cost of the work on Bloomfield Avenue will be assumed by the county. The town is asked to continue the pipe drain along Conger Street to a ditch that leads to Second River. The town's share of the cost of the work will be about \$350.

Mr. Conlan, in urging the acceptance of the proposition that had come from Mr. McGowan, said that when the drain pipes were in operation the iron plate gutters at the Centre could be removed and the depression in the street filled and macadamized at an even surface. The saving of the cost of cleaning out the existing gutters at the Centre, Mr. Conlan said, would be a considerable item.

The members of the Council were all of one mind that the proposition made should be taken advantage of, and the matter was referred to the committee on sewers and drains with power.

Bids for the Bloomfield Avenue part of the work will be advertised for at the next meeting of the Board of Freeholders.

Town Engineer Olmsted was present at the Council meeting and was asked by Mr. Moore if he had seen the plans of the proposed improvement and if he deemed it feasible and practical. Mr. Olmsted replied in the affirmative and advised the acceptance of the offer.

Nutley License Ordinance

Important amendments to the excise ordinance, which passed first reading at a meeting of the Nutley Common Council some six weeks ago, were made by that body Wednesday night, and to all intents and purposes the ordinance is practically a new one. It will be treated as such Wednesday night's reading was its initial one.

The provisions of the amended ordinance, which will be read a second and final reading August 3, and become operative five days later, are in the main as already published. The amendments, however, are far-reaching, and change the aspect of the saloon-keepers' standpoint, and are not calculated to afford them much satisfaction. A crumb of comfort was distributed to them, however, as a reduction was made in the license fee from that at first contemplated. The present fee is \$150, and it was at first proposed to charge \$250. This was changed to \$200 at the request of a number of dealers, who claimed that their business would not warrant the payment of the higher amount.

The principal amendments, which were urged by the Nutley Civic Association, provide for the mandatory instead of the optional punishment of saloon-keepers for the violation of the provisions of the ordinance, and necessitates the signatures of two-thirds of the citizens within 500 feet of any saloon before a license may be granted to the applicant. The bond of two freeholders in the sum of \$500 for the faithful performance of all requirements under the ordinance is likewise required before permission to carry on business will be granted.

